

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUDAPE 03976 151620Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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O 151516Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9902

S E C R E T BUDAPEST 3976

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS
TAGS: PGEN HU US
SUBJECT: CROWN OF ST STEPHEN

REF: SECSTATE 255571, BUDAPEST 3819, 3750, 3840

1. AMBASSADOR MET WITH BARTHA NOV 15 TO SEEK CONFIRMATION OF THE CURRENT STATUS OF WHERE WE STAND ON OUR PLANNING WITH THE HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT CONCERNING THE RETURN SCENARIO. THE OUT-LINE BELOW IS KEYED TO THE DEPARTMENT'S POINTS IN PARA 3 OF STATE 255571:

A. PLACE OF RETURN: FONMIN PUJA HAS OFFICIALLY AGREED TO THE RETURN IN BUDAPEST.

B. U.S. DELEGATION: FONMIN PUJA HAS TOLD US OFFICIALLY THAT THE HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD WELCOME A VISIT BY AN AMERICAN DELEGATION, HEADED BY A SENIOR USG OFFICIAL.

C. DATE OF RETURN: THE HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT HAS SO FAR ACCEPTED EVERY DATE WE HAVE PROPOSED. ACTION ON THIS POINT RESTS IN WASHINGTON, AND IT IS ONE ON WHICH WE NEED INSTRUCTIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

D. HUNGARIAN PARTICIPANTS: PUJA HAS TOLD US OFFICIALLLY THAT THE CHIEF HUNGARIAN DELEGATE WILL BE OF SUITABLE STATURE TO DEAL WITH THE CHEIF AMERICAN DELEGATE. DEPUTY FONMIN NAGY HAS TOLD US PERSONALLY THAT THE CHIEF HUNGARIAN DELEGATE WILL BE THE PRESI-

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DENT OR VICE PRESIDENT. NAGY HAS ALSO TOLD US ON A PERSONAL BASIS THAT NO OTHER PROMINENT HUNGARIAN POLITICAL LEADER WOULD BE PRESENT. AMBASSADOR BARTHA HAS TOLD US OFFICIALLY THAT LEADING RELIGIOUS FIGURES WILL BE INCLUDED. ON A PERSONAL BASIS HE HAS SAID THAT THE CARDINAL PRIMATE, PROTESTANT LEADERS, LEADERS OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF WOMEN'S

AND YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS WOULD BE AMONG THOSE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE. IF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ARE INCLUDED IN THE U.S. DELEGATION, THE EMBASSY IS SURE THAT MEMBERS OF THE HUNGARIAN PARLIAMENT WILL ALSO PARTICIPATE. FURTHER SPECIFICITY OF PARTICIPANTS IS DEPENDENT ON AGREEMENT ON A DATE FOR RETURN.

E. NATURE OF THE PUBLIC CEREMONY: FONMIN PUJA AGREED OFFICIALLY TO THE TRANSFER TAKING PLACE AT A PUBLIC SOLEMN CEREMONY. PUJA ALSO AGREED OFFICIALLY THAT REMARKS AT THE CEREMONY WILL BE CONFINED TO PRE-AGREED STATEMENTS. NAGY AND BARTHA HAVE SUGGESTED ON A PERSONAL BASIS THAT THE TRANSFER CEREMONY WILL TAKE PLACE IN PARLIAMENT.

F. MEDIA PARTICIPATION: FONMIN PUJA HAS INFORMED US OFFICIALLY THAT THE MEDIA CAN PARTICIPATE AT THE RETURN CEREMONY. BARTHA HAS TOLD US OFFICIALLY THAT AMERICAN, INTERNATIONAL, AND HUNGARIAN MEDIA (PRESS, RADIO, TV) WOULD BE PRESENT THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE CEREMONY. THERE WOULD ALSO BE APPROPRIATE MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE AIRPORT ARRIVAL AND OTHER HIGH POINTS IN THE DELEGATION'S SCHEDULE. BARTHA HAD ONLY ONE CAVEAT: NO REPRESENTATION FROM RFE.

G. TRANSPORTATION OF THE REGALIA FROM THE UNITED STATES: FONMIN PUJA TOLD US OFFICIALLY THAT A U.S. AIR FORCE AIRCRAFT TRANSPORTING THE DELEGATION AND THE CROWN WOULD BE WELCOME IN BUDAPEST.

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H. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT: FONMIN PUJA HAS INFORMED US OFFICIALLY THAT THE HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT AGREES TO OUR WISH FOR A JOINT COMMUNIQUE. NAGY HAS INDICATED HIS PERSONAL ACCEPTANCE OF THE TEXT OF OUR DRAFT COMMUNIQUE WITH A SLIGHT CHANGE IN THE WORDING OF THE LAST SENTENCE.

I. PERMANENT PUBLIC DISPLAY: DEPUTY FONMIN NAGY HAS INFORMED US OFFICIALLY THAT THE HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT WILL PLACE THE CROWN ON PERMANENT PUBLIC DISPLAY AT AN APPROPRIATE PLACE IN BUDAPEST. AMBASSADOR BARTHA HAS ALSO STATED THAT THIS IS THE POSITION OF HIGHEST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. FURTHERMORE, THERE WILL BE NO RESTRICTIONS ON FOREIGNERS OR HUNGARIANS WHO WISH TO SEE IT. NAGY HAS INFORMED US INFORMALLY THAT HE BELIEVES THE CROWN WILL BE PERMANENTLY DISPLAYED IN EITHER THE FORMER ROYAL PALACE ON CASTLE HILL OR IN THE NATIONAL MUSEUM ON PARLIAMENT SQUARE.

2. FURTHER DETAILS ON PLANNING OF THE TRANSFER ARE CONTAINED IN BUDAPEST 3819, 3750 AND 3840.

3. BARTHA TOLD US NOV 15 THAT MANY OF THE DETAILS

WHICH REMAIN TO BE FIXED CANNOT BE NAILED DOWN UNTIL
WE HAVE A DEFINITE DATE AND THE NAME OF THE CHIEF
U.S. DELEGATE. WE ARE WAITING INSTRUCTIONS ON THESE
TWO POINTS. ONCE THEY ARE IN HAND, WE ANTICIPATE
EARLY AGREEMENT WITH THE GOH ON OUTSTANDING
QUESTIONS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, CULTURAL PROPERTY, CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BUDAPE03976
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770422-0676
Format: TEL
From: BUDAPEST
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771159/aaaabyin.tel
Line Count: 123
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a7cd641a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 STATE 255571, 77 BUDAPEST 3819
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 589740
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CROWN OF ST STEPHEN
TAGS: EGEN, HU, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a7cd641a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009